

John McMahon's Last  
DCI STAFF MEETING  
25 March 1986

- Aversion for speeches and ceremonials
- Can't get away without recognition of long career
- Complaint - 34 years service - don't have 30 year pin
- Told it takes 5 years to issue - not until complete 35 years
- Deference to high position and imminent retirement, I used all influence

I could muster to get you a 30 year pin - a year early

- John's career here truly remarkable - you know better than I
- Greatest proof that there is upward mobility at Agency
- Anyone who started as commo clerk, rises to high positions in all

4 Directorates and the Intelligence Community Staff, run the analytic and clandestine services, become expert in all phases of technical collection and winds up as Deputy Director of Central Intelligence - WELL, he must have something on the ball!

- John has always been right on.

- Speaking of the right, John has made lots of friends for the Agency.

He has earned the respect of such distinguished commentators and participants in the intelligence process as Malcolm Wallop, Angelo Codevilla, Lyndon Larouche, Bill Gertz and that public-spirited lobby which calls itself "Free the Eagle."

- If I may be permitted a personal note - I don't advertise my age, but on this occasion I will admit that I've really been around a long time and I have been privileged to work closely with great people from Bill Donovan in the forties to Ronald Reagan in the eighties, but I never worked with anyone I respected more than John McMahon and I rate his service to our country as highly as anyone else I ever worked with.

- John, I consider myself very lucky to have had your guidance and support for these five years. By your example and by watching you, you've taught me a great deal about this great organization and what makes it great. You have done, still do, and will continue to epitomize the spirit and the heart and soul of this magnificent institution. Perhaps what we all value most about John McMahon is that he never failed to tell us exactly what he thought - an attribute that earned him the title of The Great Equivocator - and that he expressed those thoughts in such vivid, pungent and frequently unprintable language.

- John, you will forever be a model, about which we will brag and preach, of opportunity and challenge, of the achievement and satisfaction which the Central Intelligence Agency can offer to a boy from Holy Cross.

- And so it is a privilege for me to present your fifth or sixth Distinguished Intelligence Medal with the hope that we all have - that it will carry very special memories and association for you.